NUMBER

133 COMIC SHOP NEWS

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From

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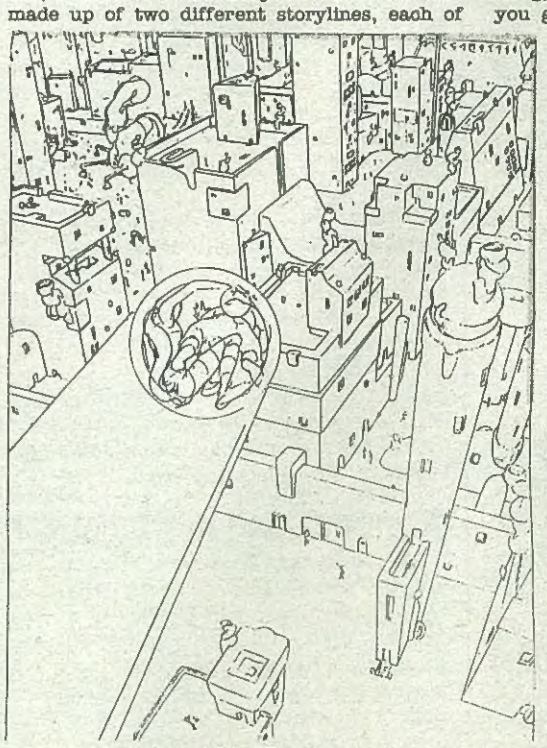
A Comics Specialty Outlet

JANUARY HOT PICKS!

Caliber Loads 1990 Schedule With Four New Mini-Series

Caliber Press managed to break a pattern in 1989. They became one of the relatively few new comics publishers to establish a strong niche for themselves in a year when Batman and other mainline comics from the major publishers pretty much dominated the comics market. The company isn't resting on its laurels, though; instead, they've already announced the addition of four new mini-series for 1990, with more titles on the way.

Snarl, a three-issue series by Kevin Atkinson, will debut in January. This is a series made up of two different storylines, each of which reflects Atkinsons's offbeat sense of humor. The lead story, "Eaters," deals with Caleb Steel, who finds that life deals him one strange hand after another. Brain robbers, vampires, giant air-breathing land-walking carnivorous codfish--it's all in a day's work for Steel.



God's Hammer

Snarl's back-up feature is "Dog," a story about (how did you guess it?) a dog-masked hero. The stories, which have a decidedly whimsical cast, pit Dog against his nemesis, the diabolical Victor Quasmode.

January will also bring ***Dutch Decker (and the Voodo Queen)***, a five-issue limited series written by Tracy Derks and illustrated by Benjamin Wu. ***Dutch Decker*** is based on the real-life Hearst reporter Karl Decker. The mini-series deals with Decker's mission to free Cuban rebel Evangeline Sisneros from a Havana prison in 1897. The story has elements of action, adventure, suspense, and supernatural, all intermingled in a fascinating story--one that's even more fascinating because it really happened!

February will see the release of a third Caliber limited series, Varcel's Vixens. This project was originally announced as a Caliber Press graphic novel; it is now scheduled as a three issue limited series. ***Varcel's Vixens*** is created by Susan Van Camp; it is the story of Varcel, who is offered a chance to become "the Sword-bearer" if she can prove her mettle in a test of valor. Her test? To retrieve the mysterious Polyod. First, she has to find out just *what* it is, though! Incidentally, ***Varcel's Vixens*** isn't the character's first appearance; Varcel previously appeared as a feature in ***Tales From the Aniverse.***

Dutch Decker

In March, ***God's Hammer*** is set to strike. This three-issue limited series by J. Calafiore focuses on Moraldo, a man who finds himself caught in a game that he not only doesn't understand, but he doesn't particularly want to play! Presented with "the card" by strangers hammering on his door in the middle of the night, Moraldo dismisses it and goes back to bed. A bit later, a group of alien beings with heavy-duty weaponry show up demanding "the card." However, when Moraldo turns it over to them, they're not particularly happy; they insist that it isn't the right card? So what does Moraldo do? You'll have to read ***God's Hammer*** to find out.

These four mini-series are a small part of the new projects on the Caliber Press schedule for 1990. New ongoing series, one-shots, and graphic novels are also slated for publication next year--and you can look for news about them in upcoming issues of ***CSN.***

by Alex Kirkland

Varcel's Vixens

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A Comics Specialty Outlet

Time Is Right For Tempus Fugitive

Ken Steacy's upcoming DC series ***Tempus Fugitive*** has three things going for it upon its release: time travel, aerial adventure, and Ken Steacy's incredible airbrushed color artwork. Any one of them should be enough to make a strong series; put them together, and you get another prestige-format winner.

Tempus Fugitive is a fast-paced adventure story that allows Ken Steacy the opportunity to illustrate aircraft from all ages, from World War I biplanes to today's fighter jets to future spacecraft. It's not just a "what's what" of the airplane world, though. Instead, ***Tempus Fugitive*** is a tautly plotted science fiction tale that takes its hero, Ray 27, from the far future to the distant past and back again.

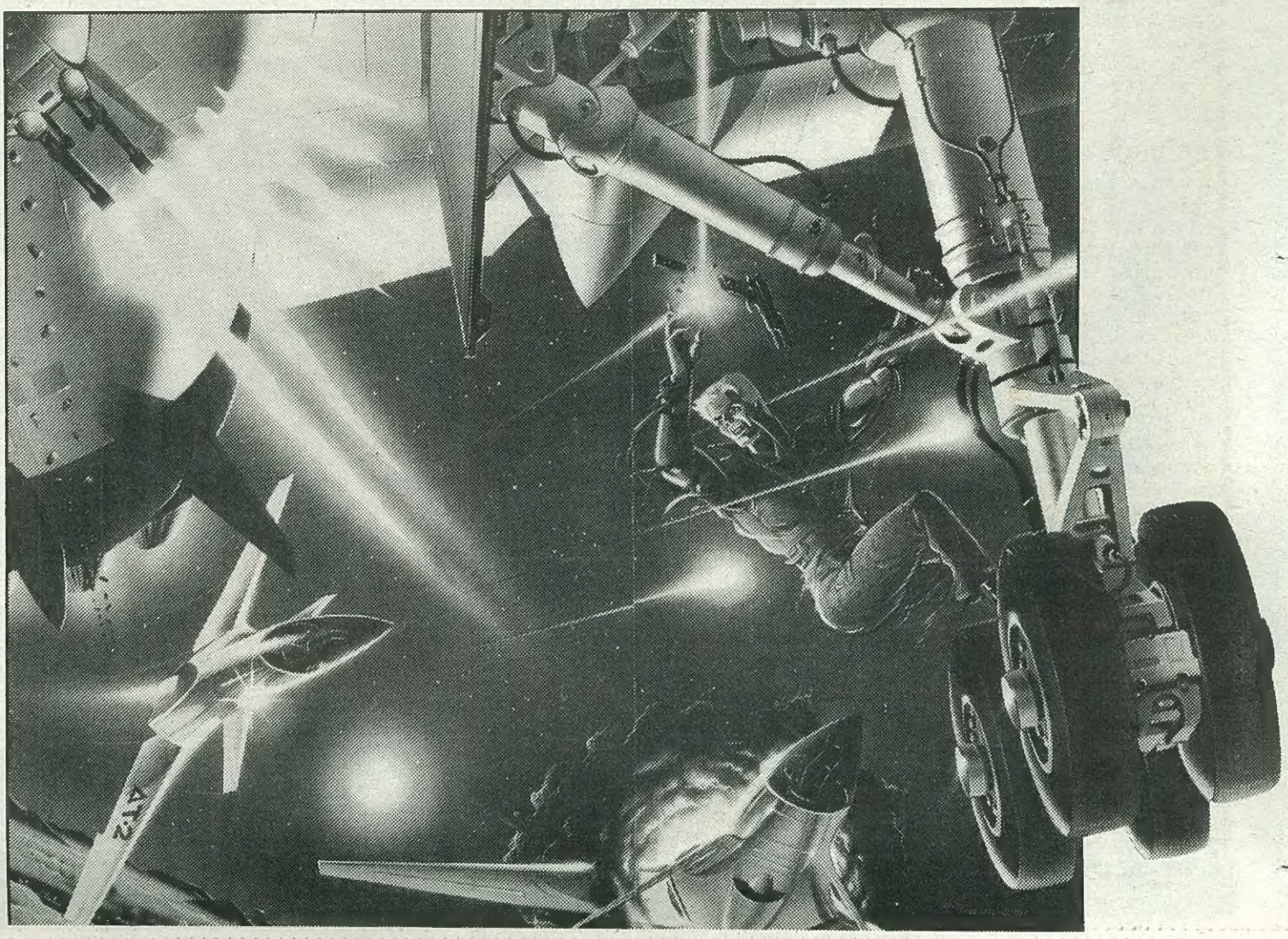
Ray 27 is dissatisfied with life in a rigid, controlled future. To escape from this existence, he sabotages a time-displacement project and heads into the past along with his polymorph, a vehicle capable of simulating any known aircraft configuration. Ray 27 hopes to alter the past to prevent his future from coming into existence. Naturally, the powers that be aren't too thrilled with this idea, so they put two other polymorphs on his tail in an aerial dogfight through time as well as space.

Tempus Fugitive is totally Ken Steacy's project; he is writing, illustrating, and airbrushing the book. The title is one of the new creator-owned projects from DC Comics, which means that Steacy retains not only control of the book, but ownership as well.

Steacy has established quite a following for his stylish airbrush artwork over the years; he has done an occasional airbrushed story for ***Marvel Fanfare*** as well as having illustrated ***Night and the Enemy, Astroboy,*** and ***The Sacred and the Profane.***

Each issue of the four-issue prestige-format limited series ***Tempus Fugitive*** will be priced at $4.95; the first issue is scheduled for March 1st release.

by Alex Kirkland

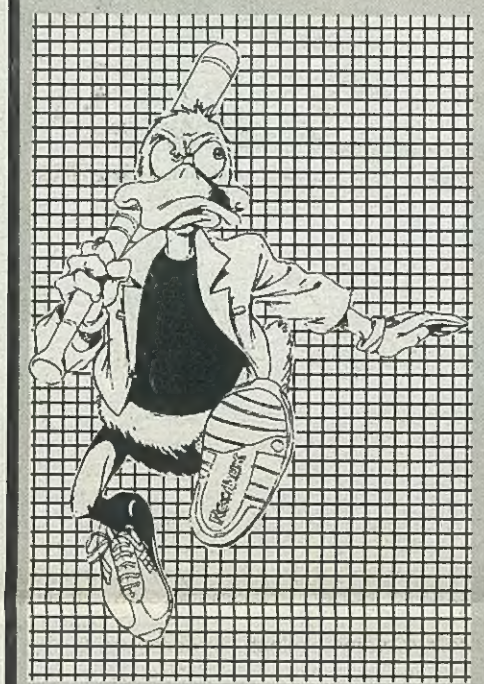


NEWSBRIEFS

GETTING TO THE MEAT OF THE MATTER

"A Baloney Place of Dying," the first installment of a four-part story that begins in ***She-Hulk #14***, is aimed at fans of "big change" series. It's also aimed at those who hate "big change" series, for that matter. This is the kickoff issue of the "Cosmic Squish Principle" series-within-a-series in which the She-Hulk's life will totally be destroyed--but don't worry, creators **Steve Gerber** and **Bryan Hitch** plan to clean up when they're finished...

Universes will live, universes will die, Golden Age heroes will be revived, cosmic beings with snotty attitudes will be introduced--and the She-Hulk may even turn gray! How can you *miss* such earth-shattering occurrences?!



Furthermore, Steve Gerber's Howard the Duck will return to comics with ***She-Hulk #14***, and will be on hand for the duration of the storyline. Artist Bryan Hitch has redesigned Howard slightly for the 1990's--but as the illustration shows, he's still the Howard we all know and love...

She-Hulk #14 is scheduled for February 8th release. Marvel has tagged ace artist Brian Bolland to do the cover for this issue, so it should be quite easy to spot on the stands...

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

Another Rainbow Publishers were pretty ambitious in attempting to collect all the **Carl Barks** duck material into ten hardcover boxed sets. They've since discovered that just getting to books into print isn't enough; they have to keep working at keeping them available because so many of you out there keep buying the sets as quickly as Another Rainbow can publish 'em. The fastest-selling set of all was ***Carl Barks Library Set II***, featuring all the Carl Barks material from ***Donald Duck Four Color 238*** through ***Donald Duck 138***, along with previously unavailable material. It's been unavailable for over a year now--but it will be back in print in early 1990. The price of the three-volume boxed set is $110 (the same price as all the other Barks sets). If your local comics shop doesn't regularly stock the sets, don't fret; they can special order them for you--and tell 'em that ***CSN*** sent you!

ANTARCTIC'S BIG ON MIGHTY TINY

Ben Dunn, publisher of Antarctic Press, is pretty big on the newest mini-series his company has to offer. ***Mighty Tiny***, a five-issue limited series that should be appearing on the stands about the time you read this, is the story of two anthropomorphic kids who discover a plot to bring about a war between two countries--one of which is their own! It's also a tour de force for Dunn, who already has quite a following for his work on ***Ninja High School*** and ***Tiger-X***. Dunn continues to work with other publishers--most notably Eternity Comics--but he hasn't given up his own publishing. ***Mighty Tiny*** joins Antarctic's Mangazine in offering anthropomorphic (that's animals acting like people, for those of you who have an allergy to big words) adventure and manga-inspired action--two things that obviously have quite a fascination for Dunn. Each issue of ***Mighty Tiny*** will feature 32 pages of black and white story and art with full color covers for $1.75.

A KRYPT-IC PLOT...

Look, up in the sky...it's a bird...it's a plane...it's Krypton-Man! Doesn't have quite the same ring, does it? Not to us, perhaps, but it sounds just fine to Superman in a three-part story running through ***Superman #42***, ***Adventures of Superman #465***, and ***Action Comics #652***.

In this three-part adventure appearing in February and March, Superman's humanity is totally suppressed by his Krypton nature, and he changes his guise from that of Superman to Kal-El, operating in a new Kyrptonian costume. It seems that the Eradicator's plan is about to reach fruition; then Death-Rite (formerly Draaga from ***Action Comics Annual #2***) arrives on Earth to exact his own revenge against Superman...

It gets even worse for Kal-El (as if this isn't bad enough already...). Clark Kent is evicted. He's fired. And even Pa Kent is a little peeved at him! So peeved, in fact, the he and Ma Kent come to Metropolis for the first time to "teach that ingrate Clark a lesson!" Can even Superman face up to this?

VAMPIRE LESTAT RISES AGAIN

Innovation knew that they had a hit on their hands with their comics adaptation of **Anne Rice**'s ***Vampire Lestat***; they were so confident, in fact, that they overprinted by 30% to cover reorders. The book was even more successful than they imagined, though, so their *entire* print run--including overprinting--sold out in less than two weeks.

If you weren't lucky enough to latch onto a copy of the book, you're not out of luck, though. Innovation will be reprinting the first issue in mid-February for those of you who missed it the first time around; there will be no differences between the first and the second printing.

Meanwhile, what about future issues of ***Vampire Lestat***? According to Innovation, the second issue should reach comic shops by mid-January. Each issue will be priced at $2.50. If you don't want to miss the second issue of this hot-selling horror title, be sure to let your local comic shop know ASAP. According to **Diana Light** of Innovation, the print run on the second issue has been upped, but she also says that "we are still receiving requests for order increases...I think the only people who didn't underestimate the success of this book were those connected with its creation."

BETTY PAGE ESTABLISHES TIES AT 3-D ZONE

3-D Zone will offer its second Betty Page publication in March 1990. ***Betty Page Captured: Jungle Girl 3-D*** will feature more 3-D photos of Betty Page; once again, this Betty Page volume will be intended for mature readers.

"Our first Betty Page 3-D book was so well received," **Ray Zone** said, "that it became apparent that people were ready for more of Betty Page in dimension. This second collection features classic actio photos from the Irving Klaw archives." Zone is converting the photos to 3-D himself.

Betty Page Captured: Jungle Girl 3-D will be a large-format deluxe book, featuring 24 pages of 3-D; it will be priced at $3.95.

NOW WORKS ON AN ALIAS

Racer-X is coming to an end in early March--but don't worry that **Chuck Dixon**, **Todd Fox**, and **Enrique Villagran** will be out of work at Now for very long. Just a month after their final issue of Racer-X, the trio will debut a new book, ***Alias: Stranglehold***, created by Now's **Tony Caputo** and **Kate Llewellyn**.

Alias is a killer-for-hire who uses a computer system to pick and choose his jobs. If you want Alias, pitch your proposal over his computer; if he likes it, he takes the job. He doesn't worry about the money; if you don't pay him, you're his next victim! ***Alias: Strangelhold*** is a taut, suspenseful story of a cool professional killer. The monthly title will kick off with a premiere-issue cover by fan-favorite **Bill Sienkiewicz**, who is taking time off from his upcoming ***Big Numbers*** book with **Alan Moore** to paint a piece for the first issue. Look for ***Alias: Stranglehold*** in mid-April.

SUICIDE SQUAD NOT DEAD YET

In ***Suicide Squad #39***, Amanda Waller goes to prison and the Suicide Squad is disbanded. Showing that comic book time and real-time aren't always the same, ***Suicide Squad #40*** will begin a year after the previous month's issue. The Suicide Squad is still disbanded, Amanda Waller is till in Belle Reve in Louisiana--but a lot of other things have changed...

In communist Vlatava, a rebellion is brewing, centered around former Squad member Count Vertigo. In Moscow, a new group of Soviet meta-humans--the Red Shadows--is founded. And in Gotham City, a friend of Bruce Wayne's is murdered soon after he reveals a right-wing conspiracy to bring the USA and the USSR into direct conflict. Can the world get by without a Suicide Squad? Batman thinks not--so in ***Suicide Squad #40***, he begins a plan to recreate the Suicide Squad for the 1990's.

The Phoenix Gambit is a four-part storyline that will appear in ***Suicide Squad #40-43***. This mini-series-within-a-series will recreate the Suicide Squad; Batman will play a prominent role in this recreation.

To commemorate this new direction for the book, DC is including a 10" x 20" bound-in poster of Batman and the Suicide Squad. The response to the bound-in posters in ***Detective*** #604 and #607 were so positive that DC has gone even further this time, with an even larger heavier-stock poster.

Suicide Squad: The Phoenix Gambit will be presented by **John Ostrander**, **Kim Yale**, and **Geoff Isherwood**. Each issue will be priced at $1; the first issue will hit comic shop stands on March 8th.

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NEWSBRIEFS

ECLIPSE UNCORKS GIN & COMIX

The School of Visual Arts in New York is the company responsible for the critically-acclaimed, hip ***Raw***. Beginning in February, they add a companion for ***Raw: Gin & Comix***, a 78-page oversized graphic album.

Gin and Comix, a book over two years in the making according to its publisher, Eclipse Comics, features work by a wide range of comix artists, painters, and illustrators from all over the world. **Jerry Moriarty, Frances Jetter, Philippe Weisbecker, Peter Hoey, Mokeit**, and others contribute to the innovative Gin & Comix.

The book will contain 62 pages in black and white plus 16 pages published in duotone. "It is innovative, unique, and presents the vanguard of what the graphic art field can achieve," Eclipse says of the volume. It'll certainly be easy to spot on the stands: ***Gin & Comix*** will be published in the 10.5" x 14" format used for the original ***Raw***. It will be priced at $10; look for it in late February or early March.

KITCHEN SINK IN THE SPIRIT OF THE SEASON WITH "SNOWBOUND"

Spirit #64, on sale in February, will feature the very popular Spirit adventure "Snowbound"--an appropriate release for the tail-end of winter, wouldn't you say? Also features in the issue are two never-before-reprinted stories, "The Song of Little Willum" and "Sammy and Willum Take Over." The fourth story in this issue is "The Winnah!" ***The Spirit***, an all-ages comic book, is priced at $2 per issue.

NOW WORKS ON TRADES

Now Comics is making strong inroads in the trade paperback market, with the release of two trade paperbacks featuring ***Fright Night*** storylines. ***The Return of Evil Ed***, a 100-page black-and-white trade paperback reprinting ***Fright Night #8-11***, will be released in late March. It will be priced at $4.95. Three months later, Now will offer a trade paperback reprint of ***Fright Night #12, #14***, and ***#15***; this book will contain 64 perfect-bound pages, printed in full-color, priced at $14.95. Both books will feature new covers.

ELSEWHERE PRINCE FINDS NEW KINGDOM AT MARVEL

Moebius' ***Elsewhere Prince*** (a continuation of his most famous fantasy series, The Airtight Garage) has found his kingdom at Marvel Comics. Furthermore, he has enlisted two royal aides-de-camp, **Jean-Marc Lofficier** and **Eric Shanower**, to assist him in his new series of adventures.

In ***The Elsewhere Prince***, Major Grubert has created a rich and bizarre universe, into which falls a young artist whose mission is to draw the wonders of the fantasy realm. In the process of this fantasy adventure, the young artist produces a number of paintings (which will be done by Moebius himself). While Moebius (assisted by Lofficier) will be writing ***The Elsewhere Prince***, he won't be drawing the new six-issue limited series. Eric Shanower, the talented artist who brought **L. Frank Baum's** ***Oz*** to life in a series of First Comics graphic novels, has been tapped to handle the art honors on the new series. Shanower has been praised for the delicacy and detail of his work--two traits that he shares with Moebius. ***The Elsewhere Prince*** will begin in March. Each issue of the six-issue offset-format limited series will be priced at $1.95.

THE NTH (WATCH)MAN?

Nth Man is a title undergoing a major change in direction. Early issues of the book were aimed much more at the sort of action-adventure fan who enjoys high-action adventure. With ***Nth Man #11***, though, the book takes a turn to the bizarre as Alfie O'Meagan (replete with a Galactus costume) heads for outer space to spread his psychotic message to the stars, while Nth Man and Colonel Novikova meet with KGB hookers in Washington.

Does all this sound a bit surreal to you? It should; **Larry Hama** and **Ron Wagner** are very deliberately moving Nth Man from its conventional future-war scenario to an unpredictable, untraditional book that Marvel is confident will fascinate readers of such series as Excalibur and Watchmen.

This major change takes place on February 15th and continues every month from then on. Fans who haven't been keeping up with Nth Man before might want to use this issue as a "jumping-on" point to find out just what Hama and Fredericks have in mind.

PAUL SMITH IS A-MAZED

Maze Agency has had some talented artists listed in its credits--most recently fan-favorite **Adam Hughes.** It looks like that tradition will continue into 1990, even though Adam Hughes has moved on to other things.

Maze Agency #14, on sale in April, features a guest cover by fan-favorite **Paul Smith**, best known for his work on ***X-Men*** and ***X-Factor.*** Smith's cover illustrates a story by **Mike Barr, Robb Phipps,** and **Rick Magyar.**

Maze Agency #14 presents Jennifer Mays and Gabe Webb with a particularly juicy mystery: how did a convict strapped in the electric chair end up dying of poisoning? And even though the man was sentenced to death, that poisoning is still classified as murder.

As always, ***Maze Agency #14*** is a "play-fair" mystery; writer Mike Barr always gives the readers sufficient clues to solve the case themselves if they're paying careful attention. Look for the Paul Smith cover on the stands in late April.

SAPPHIRE--A GEM FOR ADULT READERS

Barry Blair made his first venture into the realm of adult comics with ***Leather and Lace***, a book that was initially offered in two formats: adult and all-ages. With his next series, ***Sapphire***, Blair is aiming at the adult market only; he feels confident that they will enjoy an epic fantasy without boundaries.

"Projects like ***Sapphire*** are a breath of fresh air for me because there are no limitations. I'm free to let my imagination run wild with some of my favorite themes: magic, fantasy, elves, wizards, trolls, and dragons." The book will go beyond the limits set on most heroic fantasies, however.

Sapphire is written by ***Elizabeth Durning***, and is the epic fantasy story of an Elf-Human war and the involvement of the title character, a female mercenary. "It's set roughly five years after the events of ***Elflord***," Blair said. The Humans and Elves are ready to make peace with one another--but the human wizards who are profiting from both sides of the conflict aren't quite so eager. "Needless to say, they don't want to see the war end and their profit margins diminish." In order to keep the war going, Sapphire and her companion, the wizard Colin, are called upon to lead a delegation of Elves into the human kingdom. "It turns out to be a trap, though," Blair said, "and Sapphire and the Elves are caught in the middle."

Each issue of ***Sapphire*** will be shipped prebagged. The first issue will also include a special sneak-review of Aircel's upcoming ***Cat and Mouse*** comic. The adults-only ***Sapphire*** will be priced at $2.50 an issue; the first issue should premiere in February.

COMICS AUTHOR BECOMES COMICS GOD

Harry Harrison, science fiction and comics writer who has created such concepts as ***Deathworld*** and ***The Stainless Steel Rat***, worked as scripter of the *Flash Gordon* comic strip from 1958 to 1966. He probably never imagined that twenty-plus years after his writing stint, he'd be appearing as a character in the very same strip--a god, in fact! **Dan Barry**, writer/illustrator of *Flash Gordon*, has introduced a character known as Hari-Hari. There's no doubt about it, though; it's Harry Harrison!

In the strip, sanitation robots rule the Earth, and they've ordered all humans off the planet to give the Earth a rest. Since Harry Harrison once predicted that in the future trash collectors would rule the world, these sanitation robots now revere "Hari-Hari" and his ideas.

If your local newspaper doesn't carry *Flash Gordon*, don't worry; you can get a monthly dose of the popular strip at your local comics shop. ***Comics Revue***, the comic strip anthology magazine edited by **Rick Norwood** and distributed by Comics Interview Press, carries Flash Gordon along with numerous other adventure and humor strips. You can enjoy *Flash Gordon, Batman, Modesty Blaise, Calvin and Hobbes*, and many other strips for only $4.95 an issue.

CSN HOT PICKS!

JANUARY HOT PICKS!

by Cliff Biggers

So Christmas is past tense now and you've finished reading all those great trade paperbacks, hardcovers, and graphic novels that you found waiting for you under the tree. What do you do now? Hey, no problem! You can trust the thoughtful folks in the comics biz to offer lots more gobdies for post-Christmas perusal!

Adam Strange 1

DC has done an admirable job of revitalizing the characters who initiated DC's Silver Age almost thirty years ago. In recent years, we've seen re-energized renditions of Flash, Green Lantern, Hawkman, Atom, Justice League, and more. It was inevitable that one of the most lovingly-remembered of all DC Silver Age heroes would return. ***Adam Strange,*** the intrepid adventurer whose exploits took him from Earth to Rann via the zeta beam, is the star of his own prestige-format limited series, and the success of this project is virtually guaranteed. DC has teamed writer Richard Bruning with ace artist Andy Kubert to tell an updated story of an Earthman who feels that home is 25 trillion miles away. This time, the focus is on Adam's humanity--a background that readers haven't seen prior to this series. The book also presents a less utopian Rann than Adam Strange fans may recall--but it all comes together in a surprisingly strong mini-series that should do for Adam Strange what ***Hawkworld*** did for Hawkman. (DC - $3.95)

Amazing Spider-Man Annual 1990

Todd McFarlane is the hottest talent in the industry right now, and Marvel is well aware of that. They're offering two Todd McFarlane reprint projects this month--one from Marvel and this one from its British arm, Marvel UK. This hardcover collection reprints two Todd McFarlane stories plus two other ***Spider-Man*** tales; judging from the enthusiasm McFarlane fans display for any McFarlane project, this book has probably been severely underordered and should disappear from the racks in a matter of days. The new lower-than-ever-before price of the British annuals should help make this even more affordable to McFarlane fans. (Marvel UK - $5.95)

Aliens Vs. Predator 1

Dark Horse is running a bit late with the start of this new series that should set sales records for the company. Let's hope they get the first issue out in January, though; fans are forming unruly mobs at the comic shop counters waiting for this one! (Dark Horse - $2.50)

Avengers 315

Spider-Man--an Avenger? The next few issues of the Avengers will explore this possibility as Spider-Man goes into action with the team and finds out that this super-team stuff isn't so bad after all! Look for the Spidey-excitement to extend over into the Avengers for the first half of 1990--and that can translate into a lot of new fans looking for ***Avengers*** issues! (Marvel - $1)

Classics Illustrated 1-4: The Raven & Other Poems by Edgar Allan Poe

(adapted by Gahan Wilson)

Great Expectations by Charles Dickens

(adapted by Rick Geary)

Alice Through the Looking Glass by Lewis Carroll

(adapted by Kyle Baker)

Moby Dick by Herman Melville

(adapted by Bill Sienkiewicz)

Classics Illustrated are back at last--and the series is even better than fans had anticipated! First Comics has kicked off the line with four books by a quartet of distinctive talents demonstrating the range of styles and material that First hopes to offer in coming months.

Classics Illustrated is such a strong name that First could have sold this series based on the reputation alone, using second-rate talent. Instead, they've gone all the way and have invested in names like Wilson, Baker, Sienkiewicz, and Geary--and believe me, there are more equally impressive talents waiting in the wings with other adaptations--who instill a degree of quality that the old ***Classics*** all too rarely had.

This line may prove to be the sleeper of 1990, because many have underestimated how many comics fans will become ***Classics*** fans when they see the quality of the works. This series should also be very popular with non-fans who are familiar with the reputation of the old ***Classics*** line. (First Comics - $3.75)

Cerebus Trade Paperback

This hefty trade paperback reprints ***Cerebus #1-25*** in a single volume. ***Cerebus Bi-Weekly*** was a nice idea; the ***Swords of Cerebus*** Trade Paperbacks from a few years ago were nice ideas; but this project, collecting all those stories in a single massive project, is the best idea yet. ***Cerebus*** creator Dave Sim has plans to follow this with future trade paperbacks reprinting the entire ***Cerebus*** run, so this is the start of a handsome series of additions to you comics bookshelf. (Aardvark-Vanaheim - $25)

Doc Savage 18

The finale of the Shadow-Doc Savage crossover adventure appears in this issue.

This treat has been long dreamed of by pulp hero fans, and it remains the highlight of DC's pulp-hero adaptations. (DC - $2)

Flaming Carrot 24

Flaming Carrot--a decade old? It's true! This issue of ***Flaming Carrot*** is a celebration of ten years of Bob Burden's zany hero. Dark Horse has added extra pages to the issue, featuring a new Mystery Men story, a Flaming Carrot radio script, a conversation with Bob Burden, and more. The Carrot's audience is extremely loyal--and the numbers are growing with every issue. This is a great issue for new readers to sample the Carrot's appeal. (Dark Horse - $2.95)

Greatest Golden Age Stories Ever Told

Delayed from last month, this hardcover collection is the latest addition to DC's ex-

CSN HOT PICKS!

tremely successful ***Greatest Stories...*** collections. Almost every major DC Golden Age hero is represented in this volume's pages--and most of the stories have never before been reprinted. (DC - $24.95)

Hellbender 1

Shuriken Cold Steel was one of Eternity's most successful series last year. Now the ***Shuriken*** series is complete and Eternity has a new ***Shuriken*** one-shot to satisfy those Shuriken fans who want something to hold them over until a new ***Shuriken*** series begins. ***Hellbender*** is a grim, somber story of a fanatical fan who is obsessed with the object of his fascination; it has all the appeal of the Cold Steel series combined with a very real-world storyline. (Eternity $2.25)

Hobbit 2

Eclipse continues its adaptation of Tolkien's classic fantasy courtesy of Chuck Dixon and David Wenzel. The first issue proved just how faithful their adaptation was to the source material; this second issue will continue to please the enormous numbers of Tolkien fans who have often hoped for a comics version of this story. (Eclipse - $4.95)

Incredible Hulk 367

Not only is this the finale to Countdown, it's also the introduction of the new ***Hulk*** artist who has tremendous fan-favorite potential: Dale Keown. Peter David's tense Countdown storyline has made the ***Incredible Hulk*** a strong seller for the past three months; look for the debut of an exciting new artist to boost the book to new heights. (Marvel - $1)

Marvel Year In Review 1989

If you've seen the ***Time Magazine*** Year In Review issues, then you know what to expect from this magazine. This is a year-in-review Marvel style, looking back on the past twelve months in the Marvel Universe. This isn't just a summary of what's gone on in the comics for the past year; it's an often witty and extremely stylish pastiche of year-in-review magazines done in a semi-serious, semi-tongue-in-cheek style that should entertain almost everyone who reads Marvel comics. (Marvel - $3.95)

Maze Agency 12

Adam Hughes has gained a legion of fans due to his work on ***Justice League America***; look for some of those fans who latch onto ***Maze Agency 12*** to see more of Hughes' artwork. As an added bonus, they'll get a prime mystery tale by Mike Barr. (Innovation - $2.50)

New Mutants 87

Louise Simonson and Rob Liefeld begin their plan to rebuild the ***New Mutants*** with this issue. To help offer a little guidance, X-Factor drop in for a guest-starring role. This book will help define the ***New Mutants*** for the 1990's; Simonson and Liefeld are determined to make this book a major mutant title again, so look for a lot of former ***New Mutants*** fans to return to see what all the fuss is about. (Marvel - $1)

New Statesmen 1

John Smith and Jim Baikie over their look at the future of superheroes in a series that many British fans are already comparing to ***The Watchmen.*** The story focuses on the Optimen, genetically-redesigned heroes who have redesigned America. Five renegade Optimen come to America only to find that their presence isn't particularly wanted. ***The New Statesmen*** is being offered in the same quality format that Fleetway used for its ***Judge Dredd Crime Files***. (Fleetway/Quality - $3.95)

Cover of the Month!

Spider-Man Venom TPB

Punisher Vs. Wolverine: African Saga TPB

Last year, ***Punisher War Journal # 6 & 7*** were instant sellouts. These two confrontation between two of Marvel's most grim heroes, and fans just couldn't get enough of it. In fact, many of them couldn't get it at all! That's why Marvel is offering this trade paperback compilation of both issues for those of you who can't afford the big bucks it takes to buy the original issues in backstock. (Marvel - $5.95)

Robocop 1

Alan Grant and Lee Sullivan are bringing ***Robocop*** to comics; this is the film ***Robocop,*** not the wimpy animated ***Robocop,*** so fans will be very pleased with the style and tone of this series. Since Frank Miller is co-writing the second film, the hero's comics roots are running pretty deep, so it's only natural that he should appear in the medium that inspired him. (Marvel - $1.50)

Scimidar Book III 1

Scimidar was one of last summer's biggest hits; now the series returns in an adult version by the same team that created last summer's ***Scimidar Book II.*** The focus is on Gitano--but there's plenty of sexy Scimidar action to please fans who enjoyed the first two books. (Eternity - $2.50)

Secret Origins TPB

This bargain trade paperback is offered in the same format DC used for its ***Death In the Family*** collection. ***Secret Origins*** not only reprints the origins of the Justice League, Flash, Green Lantern, and other popular heroes, it also contains an original version of the Batman origin that you can't get anywhere else. All this for less than $5! (DC - $4.95)

Spider-Man Vs. Venom TPB

Here's the other Todd McFarlane reprint volume alluded to at the beginning of this month's Hot Picks. Marvel has gathered the Venom stories from ***Spider-Man*** 300, 315, 316, and 317 into a single volume, and Todd McFarlane has added a new cover to the package. Some of these issues of ***Spider-Man*** are commanding higher prices than this entire collection, so this package offers an affordable way for new McFarlane fans to catch up on what they've missed. The new cover gives McFarlane's many fans something to admire in awe until McFarlane's new ***Spider-Man*** series debuts this summer. (Marvel - $8.95)

Uncle Scrooge Adventures 21

Gladstone is about to pass the Disney torch back to the Disney company; before they leave the Disney comics field, though, they're offering a real treat for Carl Barks fans. This issue of ***Uncle Scrooge Adventures*** contains a story begun many years ago by Carl Barks, Duck artist extraordinaire; this story has been completed by Don Rosa, the Gladstone Duck artist who has developed quite a following on his own. (Gladstone - $1.95)

Wolvertoons TPB/HC

Basil Wolverton is an artist whose unique style has influenced both mainstream and underground artists. His impressionist-grotesque and eerie style has been popular for over three decades now. Nevertheless, until Fantagraphics pu[illegible]gether this book, there has never beer[illegible]omprehensive look at Wolverton's career and his art. That's why ***Wolvertoons*** is a Hot Pick this month: it's a book that should have existed for a decade or more but hasn't. Fantagraphics has taken the time to do this one right; they're offering a large assortment of previously unpublished artwork along with some of Wolverton's better-known work. ***Wolvertoons*** features hundreds of Basil Wolverton illustrations in quality format. (Fantagraphics - $19.95/$39.95)

Overlooked Gem of the Month

Power Pack has been a cult favorite since the series began, but a number of fans have categorized the book as a "kid's book" and have passed it by on the stands. That's a shame, because Power Pack is not just a kid's book any more than Robert Heinlein's juveniles are just kid's books. This series combines strong writing and stylish artwork with a believable approach to the concept of child heroes. ***Power Pack #54***, on sale this month, features Mister Fantastic and Invisible Woman, along with son Franklin, making this issue especially appealing to Fantastic Four fans.

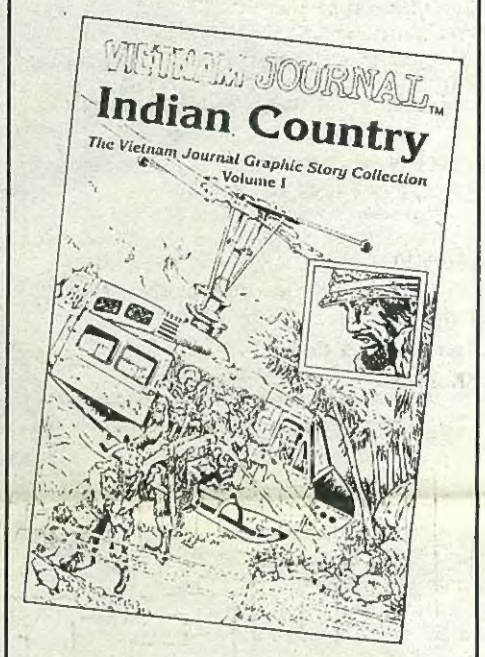
CSN QUICKLIST

The upcoming comics quicklist is a listing of scheduled titles and the dates that they should arrive in comics shops across the country. That doesn't mean that the books will always be in your shop on the date listed: some publishers ship from different parts of the country, and the farther away the publisher is from your local comic shop, the longer it will take the books to get to you.

Each entry presents the title and number of the book, followed by the release date; if a title doesn't have a scheduled release date, we don't give you a date. After that is the Publisher of the comic and the price. This quicklist presents the titles that are supposed to ship during the rest of December. A complete checklist of titles due in January will appear in *CSN 136.*

❑***Abominations GN*** Catalan $9.95
❑***Action Comics 650*** 1/11 DC $1.50
❑***Adam Strange 1*** 1/18 DC $3.95
❑***Advance Comics*** Capital .75
❑***Advanced Dungeons & Dragons 15*** 1/11 DC $1.50
❑***Adventurers Book III 4*** Adventure $2.25
❑***Adventures of Superman 463*** 1/4 DC .75
❑***Akira 17*** 1/25 Marvel $3.95
❑***Alf 27*** 1/11 Marvel $1
❑***Aliens Vs. Predator 2*** Dark Horse $2.50
❑***Alpha Flight 82*** 1/11 Marvel $1.50
❑***Amazing Heroes 176*** Fantagraphics $3.50
❑***Amazing Spider-Man 330*** 1/11 Marvel $1
❑***Amazing Spider-Man Annual 1990*** 1/11 Marvel UK $5.95

❑***Animag 9*** Animag $4.95
❑***Animal Man 20*** 1/4 DC $1.50
❑***Appleseed: Book 3 5*** 1/4 Eclipse $2.75
❑***Archie 376*** 1/18 Archie $1
❑***Archie Andrews Where Are You? Digest 67*** 1/11 Archie $1.50
❑***Archie Comics Digest 101*** 1/4 Archie $1.50
❑***Asylum 4*** New $2.25
❑***Avengers 315*** 1/18 Marvel $1
❑***Avengers Spotlight 30*** 1/11 Marvel $1
❑***Avengers West Coast 56*** marvel $1
❑***Bad Company 17*** Fleetway/Quality $1.50
❑***Badger 59*** 1/4 First $1.95
❑***Baoh 2*** 1/18 Viz $2.95
❑***Batman 444*** 1/4 DC $1
❑***Batman: Year Two TPB*** 1/4 DC $9.95
❑***Beautiful Stories For Ugly Children 8*** 1/11 Piranha $2
❑***Betty & Veronica 29*** 1/4 Archie $1
❑***Betty & Veronica's Double Digest 18*** 1/4 Archie $2.25
❑***Betty's Diary 32*** 1/11 Archie $1
❑***Birth-Rite 1*** Titan $2.50
❑***Blackhawk 11*** 1/4 DC $1.50
❑***Blood of Dracula 18*** Apple $2.25
❑***Blood Sword 19*** Jademan $1.95
❑***Blood Sword Dynasty 6*** Jademan $1.25
❑***Body Count 2*** Aircel $1.95
❑***Caliber Presents 9*** Caliber $1.95
❑***Captain America 368*** 1/4 Marvel $1
❑***Captain Atom 38*** 1/11 DC $1
❑***Captain Harlock 4*** Eternity $1.95
❑***Captain Harlock: Original TV Scripts TPB*** Eternity $19.95
❑***Cerebus TPB*** Aardvark-Vanaheim $25
❑***Cerebus: High Society 1*** Aardvark-Vanaheim $1.70
❑***Cerebus 127*** Aardvark Vanaheim $2
❑***Chaingang 2*** Northstar $2.50
❑***Checkmate 35*** 1/4 DC $1.50
❑***Cheval Noir 4*** Dark HOrse $3.50
❑***Circus World 1*** Hammac $2.50
❑***Classic X-Men 45*** 1/25 Marvel $1.25
❑***Classics Illustrated 1: The Raven & Other Poems*** 1/18 First $3.75
❑***Classics Illustrated 2: Great Expectations*** 1/18 First $3.75
❑***Classics Illustrated 3: Alice Through the Looking Glass*** 1/18 First $3.75
❑***Classics Illustrated 4: Moby Dick*** 1/18 First $3.75
❑***Comic Relief 9*** Page One Inc. $2.50
❑***Comics Express 3*** Eclipse $2.95
❑***Comics Values Monthly 44*** Attic Press $2.50
❑***Commandosaurs 4*** Mirage $1.75
❑***Complete Segar Popeye Volume 10*** Fantagraphics $16.95
❑***Conan 230*** 1/18 Marvel $1
❑***Cormac 1*** Dark Horse $1.95
❑***Count Duckula 10*** 1/25 Marvel $1
❑***Critical Mass 2*** 1/4 Marvel $4.95
❑***Crying Freeman 4*** 1/25 Viz $3.50
❑***Cyber-7 4*** 1/11 Eclipse $2
❑***Daredevil 278*** 1/4 Marvel $2
❑***Dark Horse Presents 37*** Dark Horse $1.95
❑***Deadfish Bedeviled 1*** Innovation $2.25
❑***Destroyer 6*** 1/18 Marvel $2.25
❑***Doc Savage 18*** 1/18 DC $2
❑***Doctor Fate 14*** 1/11 DC $1.50
❑***Doctor Who Monthly 157*** 1/18 Marvel UK $2.95
❑***Doll 4*** Rip Off $2.50
❑***Dominion 4*** 1/25 Eclipse $2
❑***Donald Duck 279*** Gladstone $1.95
❑***Doom Patrol 30*** 1/4 DC $1.50
❑***Dracula 2*** Eternity $2.50
❑***Dragonlance 17*** 1/25 DC $1.75
❑***Dreadstar 54*** 1/11 First $1.95
❑***Drowned Girl GN*** 1/25 Piranha $5.95
❑***Drunken Fist 19*** Jademan $1.95
❑***Duck Tales 13*** Gladstone $1.95
❑***Durango Kid 1*** AC $2.50
❑***Dutch Decker 1*** Caliber $1.95
❑***E-Man 1*** Comico $2.50
❑***El Diablo 7*** 1/25 DC $1.75
❑***Electric Undertow 5*** 1/11 Marvel $3.95
❑***Elementals 11*** Comico $2.50
❑***Excalibur 20*** 1/18 Marvel $1.50
❑***Fangoria 91*** Starlog $3.95
❑***Fantastic Four 338*** 1/25 Marvel $1
❑***Fantasy Zone 6*** 1/18 Marvel UK $2.95
❑***Femforce 23*** AC $2.50
❑***Firestorm 95*** 1/18 DC $1
❑***Flaming Carrot 24*** Dark Horse $2.95
❑***Flash 36*** 1/18 DC $1
❑***Force of Buddha's Palm 19*** Jademan $1.95



❑***Forgotten Realms 8*** 1/25 DC $1.50
❑***Fright Night 18*** 1/188 NOW $1.75
❑***Future Crime 98 1*** Survival Art $1.95
❑***GI Joe 98*** 1/18 Marvel $1
❑***Gladstone Album 26: Mickey Mouse*** Gladstone $9.95
❑***Gladstone Giant Album 5 : Donald Duck*** Gladstone $11.95
❑***Go-Man 2*** Caliber $2.50
❑***Graphic Story Monthly 3*** Fantagraphics $2.95
❑***Graphique Musique 2*** Slave Labor $2.95
❑***Greatest Golden Age Stories Ever Told*** 1/18 DC $24.95
❑***Green Arrow 29*** 1/11 DC $1.50
❑***Green Hornet 6*** 1/4 NOW $1.75
❑***Green Hornet Special Reprint 1*** 1/18 Now $3.95
❑***Green Lantern: Emerald Dawn 3*** 1/4 DC $1
❑***Grendel 39*** 1/4 Comico $2.50
❑***Grendel 40*** 1/25 Comico $2.50
❑***Grimjack 70*** 1/11 First $1.95
❑***Groo the Wanderer 63*** 1/11 Marvel $1
❑***Hammer of God 4*** 1/25 First $1.95
❑***Har Har Comics 1*** Fantagraphics $2
❑***Hawk & Dove 10*** 1/25 DC $1
❑***Headman 1*** Innovation $2.50
❑***Heathcliff 45*** 1/11 Marvel $1
❑***Heavy Metal HM*** $3.95
❑***Hellbender 1*** Eternity $2.25
❑***Hellblazer 27*** 1/25 DC $1.50
❑***Hero Sandwich GN*** Slave Labor $7.95
❑***Hobbit 3*** 1/4 Eclipse $4.95

The Editors and Staff at Comic Shop News Wish Everyone a

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We would like to thank everyone for making the 80s such a great kickoff decade and look forward to even bigger and better things in the coming years.

CSN QUICKLIST

❑***Huntress 12*** 1/18 DC $1
❑***Icon Devil 4*** Spider-Optics $1.85
❑***Incredible Hulk 367*** 1/18 Marvel $1
❑***Iron Man 254*** 1/25 Marvel $1
❑***Jack the Ripper 2*** Eternity $2.25
❑***Jademan Collection 3*** Jademan $2.50
❑***Jam 2*** Rip Off $1.95
❑***Joker Watch*** 1/11 DC $29.95
❑***Judge Dredd 40*** Fleetway/Quality $1.50
❑***Jughead 17*** Archie $1
❑***Jughead Jones Digest 62*** 1/25 Archie $1.50
❑***Jughead's Diner 1*** 1/25 Archie $1
❑***Jughead's Double Digest 3*** 1/18 Archie $2.25
❑***Justice League America 36*** 1/18 DC $1
❑***Justice League Europe 11*** 1/11 DC $1
❑***Last of the Viking Heroes Ltd. Ed. TPB*** Genesis West $8.95
❑***Laugh 20*** 1/25 Archie $1
❑***Law of Dredd 10*** Fleetway/Quality $1.50
❑***Leather & Lace 7*** Aircel $2.50
❑***Legends of the Dark Knight 4*** 1/11 DC $1
❑***LEGION '90 12*** 1/4 DC $1.50
❑***Legion of Super-Heroes 5*** 1/18 DC $1.75
❑***Li'l Abner Vol 8: 1942 Dailies TPB/HC*** Kitchen Sink $16.95/$29.95
❑***Little Monsters 4*** 1/4 NOW $1.75
❑***Lone Wolf & Cub 33*** 1/4 First $2.95
❑***Lt. Blueberry GN 4*** 1/18 Marvel $12.95

❑***Magic Crystal GN 2*** Comcat $6.95
❑***Manhunter 23*** 1/18 DC $1
❑***Marvel Age 86*** 1/18 Marvel $1
❑***Marvel Comics Presents 45*** 1/11 Marvel $1.25
❑***Marvel Comics Presents 46*** 1/25 Marvel $1.25
❑***Marvel Super-Heroes Annual*** 1/4 Marvel UK $5.95
❑***Marvel Tales 235*** 1/18 Marvel $1
❑***Marvel Year-in-Review*** 1/4
❑***Master 4*** New $2.25
❑***Maze Agency 12*** Innovation $2.50
❑***Men in Black 1*** Aircel $2.25
❑***Mickey & Donald 18*** Gladstone $1.95
❑***Mighty Tiny 2*** Antarctic $1.75
❑***Mike Grell's Sable 3*** 1/18 First $1.75
❑***Mister Miracle 13*** 1/25 DC $1
❑***Mr. X 10*** Vortex $2
❑***Nancy's Dreams & Schemes TPB*** Kitchen Sink $7.95
❑***Nemesis the Warlock 4*** Fleetway/Quality $1.95
❑***New Archies 22*** 1/4 Archie $1
❑***New Gods 13*** 1/11 DC $1.50
❑***New Mutants 87*** 1/11 Marvel $1
❑***New Statesmen 1*** Fleetway/Quality $3.95
❑***New Titans 64*** 1/25 DC $1.75
❑***Newstralia 5*** Innovation $2.25
❑***Nexus 68*** 1/25 First $1.95
❑***Nexus Legends 13*** 1/18 First $1.75
❑***Ninja High School 18*** Eternity $1.95
❑***Nth Man 10*** 1/11 Marvel $1
❑***Oriental Heroes 19*** Jademan $1.95
❑***Outlanders 14*** Dark Horse $2.25
❑***Phantom 12*** 1/11 DC $1.50
❑***Pinocchio Special 1*** Gladstone $1.95
❑***Police Academy 7*** 1/18 Marvel $1
❑***Post Brothers 18*** Vortex $2
❑***Power Pack 54*** 1/11 Marvel $1.50
❑***Prevue Magazine 78*** Supergraphics $2.95
❑***Psi Judge Anderson 3*** Fleetway/Quality $1.95
❑***Puma Blues 24*** Mirage $1.70
❑***Punisher 31*** 1/18 Marvel $1
❑***Punisher Magazine 8*** 1/4 Marvel $2.25
❑***Punisher Vs. Wolverine: African Saga TPB*** 1/4 Marvel $5.95
❑***Quasar 8*** 1/11 Marvel $1
❑***Question 35*** 1/11 DC $1.75
❑***Racer-X 8*** 1/11 Now $1.75
❑***Radrex 1*** Bullet $2.25
❑***Ralph Snart ADventures 19*** 1/11 Now $1.75
❑***Real Ghostbusters 20*** 1/4

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RETIEF™

"One intelligent being should keep another from being eaten alive, whenever he conveniently can." --Keith Laumer's Retief

Adapted by
Bruce Balfour
Illustrated by
Darren Goodhart
Alan Larson

Beginning In December

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QUICKLIST

❑***Ralph Snart ADventures 19*** 1/11 Now $1.75
❑***Real Ghostbusters 20*** 1/4 Now $1.75
❑***Real Life 1*** Fantagraphics $2.50
❑***Realm Book One tpb*** Caliber $9.95
❑***Retief 2*** Adventure $2.25
❑***Rich Rich and... 11*** Harvey $1
❑***Ring 3*** 1/25 DC $4.95
❑***Ripper 3*** Aircel $2.50
❑***Robocop 1*** 1/18 Marvel $1.50
❑***Robotech II: Malcontent Uprisings 6*** Eternity $1.95
❑***Robotech II: The Sentinels 14*** Eternity $1.95
❑***Rogue Trooper 40*** Fleetway/Quality $1.50
❑***Rumic World 2: Laughing Target*** 1/25 Viz $3.50
❑***Sable 27*** 1/25 First $1.95
❑***Saga of the Man-Elf 3*** Trident $2.25
❑***Sam Bronx & the Robots HC*** 1/4 Eclipse $6.95
❑***Sandman 14*** 1/4 DC $2.50
❑***Savage Sword of Conan 171*** 1/11 Marvel $2.25
❑***Scimidar Book III 1*** Eternity $2.50
❑***Score 4*** 1/11 Piranha $4.95
❑***Secret Origins TPB*** 1/18 DC $4.95
❑***Seraphim 1*** Innovation $2.25
❑***Shadow Strikes! 6*** 1/11 DC $1.75
❑***She-Hulk 13*** 1/4 Marvel $1.50
❑***Sherlock Holmes 19*** Eternity $2.25
❑***Sherlock Holmes of the '30s 1*** Eternity $2.95
❑***SHIELD 9*** 1/18 Marvel $1.50
❑***Shriek 2*** Fantaco $4.95
❑***Silver Surfer 35*** 1/18 Marvel $1
❑***Sinbad 3*** Adventure $2.25
❑***Sinner Book 6*** Fantagraphics $2.95
❑***Slimer! 12*** 1/11 Now $1.75
❑***Snarl 1*** Caliber $2.50
❑***Speakeasy 106*** 1/11 Eclipse $2.95
❑***Spectacular Spider-Man 162*** 1/25 Marvel $1
❑***Speed Racer 31*** 1/4 Now 41.75
❑***Spider-Man Vs. Venom TPB*** 1/25 Marvel $8.95
❑***Spirit 63*** Kitchen Sink $2
❑***Star Trek 6*** 1/25 DC $1.50
❑***Star Trek: Next Generation 5*** 1/4 DC $1.50
❑***Starlog 152*** Starlog $3.95
❑***Starlog Yearbook 6*** Starlog $4.95
❑***Starman 19*** 1/4 DC $1
❑***Steven 2*** Kitchen Sink $2.95
❑***Strip 2*** Marvel UK $2.50
❑***Strip 3*** Marvel UK $2.50
❑***Strips 2*** Rip Off $2.50
❑***Suicide Squad 38*** 1/11 DC $1
❑***Superboy 2*** 1/18 DC $1
❑***Superman 41*** 1/25 DC .75
❑***Swamp Thing 92*** 1/4 DC $1.50
❑***Terminator: Burning Earth 2*** 1/11 Now $1.75
❑***Thor 415*** 1/25 Marvel $1
❑***Tiger of Terra 9*** Mindvision $3.75
❑***Time Masters 2*** 1/25 DC $1.75
❑***Tom Corbett, Space Cadet 1*** Eternity $2.25
❑***Transformers 64*** 1/25 Marvel $1
❑***Trouble With Girls 11*** Eternity $1.95
❑***Veronica 7*** 1/11 Archie $1
❑***War 4*** 1/4 Marvel $3.50
❑***Web of Spider-Man 62*** 1/4 Marvel $1
❑***What If? 11*** 1/18 Marvel $1.25
❑***Whisper 36*** 1/11 First $1.95
❑***Wolverine 22*** 1/11 Marvel $1.50
❑***Wolvertoons*** Fantagraphics $19.95/$39.95
❑***Wonder Woman 40*** 1/18 DC $1
❑***X-Factor 52*** 1/25 Marvel $1
❑***X-Men 259*** 1/4 Marvel $1

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